

Middletown Transcript.

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Select Poetry.

BEAUTIFUL LEAVES.

Falling beneath our passing feet,
Shed upon the lawn and lane and street,
Beautiful leaves!
Dyed with the hues of the sunset sky,
Falling in glory so silently,
Beautiful leaves!

Never to freshen another spring,
Never to know what the summer may bring,
Beautiful leaves!
Withered beneath the frost and cold,
Seen to decay in the common mould,
Beautiful leaves!

So will the years that change your tint
Shed upon your autumnal print,
Beautiful leaves!
So shall we fall from the tree of time,
Faded as ye fade in a wintry clime,
Beautiful leaves!

But when the harvest of life is past,
And we wake in eternal spring at last,
Beautiful leaves!
May He who paints your brilliant hue
Form of our lives a chaplet new
Of beautiful leaves!

HOW I ESCAPED BEING KILLED IN A DUEL.

BY MARK TWAIN.

The only merit I claim for the following narrative is that it is a true story. It has a moral at the end of it, but I claim nothing on that as it is merely thrown in to carry favor with the religious element.

After I had reported a couple of years on the Virginia City (Nevada) Daily Enterprise they promoted me to be editor in chief—and lasted just a week by a watch. But I made an uncommonly lively newspaper, while I did last, and when I retired I had a duel on my hands and three horse whippings promised me. The latter I made no attempt to collect, however, this history concerns only the former. It was the old "flush times" of the silver excitement, when the population was wonderfully wild and mixed; everybody went armed to the teeth, and all slighted and insults had to be atoned for with the best article of blood your system could furnish.

In the course of my editing I made trouble with Mr. Lord, editor of the rival paper. He flew up about some little trifle or other that I said about—I do not remember what it was. I suppose I called him a thief, or a body snatcher, or an idiot, or something like that. I was obliged to make the paper readable, and I could not fail in my duty to a whole community of subscribers merely to save the exaggerated sensitiveness of an individual. Mr. Lord was offended, and replied vigorously in his paper. Vigorously means a great deal when it refers to a personal editorial in a frontier newspaper. Duelling was all the fashion among the upper classes in that country, and very few gentlemen would throw away an opportunity of fighting one.

To kill a person in a duel caused a man to be even more looked up to than to kill two men in the ordinary way. Well, out there if you abused a man, and that man did not like it, you had to call him out and kill him; otherwise you would be disgraced. So I challenged Mr. Lord, and I did hope he would not accept; but I knew perfectly well that he did not want to fight and so I challenged him in the most violent and implacable manner. And then I sat down and suffered and suffered till the answer came. All our boys—the editors—were in our office, helping me in the editorial business, and telling about duels, and discussing the code with a lot of aged fellows who had experience in such things, and altogether there was a loving interest taken in the matter, which made me unspeakably uncomfortable. The answer came—Mr. Lord declined. Our boys were furious, and so was I—on the surface. I sent him another challenge, and another and another; and the more he did not want to fight, the bloodthirstier I became. But at last the man's tone changed. He appeared to be waking up. It was becoming apparent that he was going to fight me, after all. I ought to have known how it would be—he was a man who never could be depended upon. Our boys were exultant. I was not, though I tried to be.

It was now time to go out and practice. It was the custom here to fight duels with very six-shooters at fifteen paces—load and empty till the game for the funeral was ended. We went to a little ravine just outside of town, and borrowed a barn door for a target—borrowed it of a gentleman who was absent—and we stood this hour, day up, and stood a call on our nerves the whole of it, to represent Lord and his reputation, and all that sort of thing.

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a duel—nothing but a line shot could fetch him, and even then he might split your bullet. Exaggeration aside, the rail was of course, a little too thin to represent his body accurately, but the squish was all right. If there was any intellectual difference between the squish and his head it was in favor of the squish.

Well, I practiced and practiced at the barn-door, and could not hit it; and practiced at the rail, and could not hit that; and I tried hard for the squish and could not hit the squish. I would have been entirely disheartened but that occasionally I crippled one of the boys, and that encouraged me to hope.

At last we began to hear pistol shots near by, in the next ravine. We knew what this meant! The other party were out practicing, too. Then I was in the least degree distressed, for of course those people would hear our shots, and they would send spies over the ridge, and the spies would find my barn door without a wound or scratch, and that would simply be the end of me—for of course that other man would immediately become as blood-thirsty as I was. Just at this moment a little bird, no larger than a sparrow flew by, and lit on a sage-bush about thirty paces away; and my little second, Steve Gillis, who was a matchless marksman with a pistol—much better than I was—snatched out his revolver and shot the bird's head off. We all ran to pick up the game, and sure enough just at this moment, some of the other duellists came reconnoitering over the little ridge. They ran to our group to see what the matter was; and when they saw the bird Lord's second said:

"That was a splendid shot. How far off was it?"

Steve said, with some indifference: "Oh, no great distance. About thirty paces."

"Thirty paces! Heaven alive, who did it?"

"My man—Twain."

"The mischief he did! Can he do that often?"

"Well—yes. He can do it about—well—about four times out of five."

I knew the little rascal was lying, but I never said anything. I never told him so. He was not of a disposition to invite confidence of that kind, so I let the matter rest. But it was a comfort to see these people look rick, and see their under jaw drop, when Steve made these statements. They went off and got Lord, and took him home; and when we got home, half an hour later, there was a note saying that Mr. Lord peremptorily declined to fight.

It was a narrow escape. We found out afterwards that Lord hit his mark thirteen times in eighteen shots. If he had put those thirteen bullets through me, it would have narrowed my sphere of usefulness a good deal—would have well nigh closed it, in fact. True, they could have put pegs in the holes, and used me for a hat rack, but what is a hat-rack to a man who feels he has intellectual power? I would scorn such a position.

I have written this true incident of my personal history for one purpose only—to warn the youth of the day against the pernicious practice of duelling, and to plead with them to war against it. If the remarks and suggestions I am making can be of any service to Sunday School teachers, and newspapers interested in the moral progress of society, they are at liberty to use them, and I shall even be grateful to have them widely disseminated, so that they may do as much good as possible. I was young and foolish when I challenged that gentleman, and I thought it was very fine and very grand to be a duellist, and stand upon the "field of honor." But I am older and more experienced now, and am inflexibly opposed to the dreadful custom I am glad, indeed, to be enabled to lift up my voice against it. I think it is a bad immoral thing. I think it is every man's duty to do everything he can to discourage duelling. I always do now; I discourage it upon every occasion.

If a man were to challenge me now—now that I so fully appreciate the iniquity of that practice—I would go to that man, and take him by the hand, and lead him to a quiet, retired room—and kill him.

Some philosopher observed, upon remarking the great appetite and the general inability of the Newfoundland dog, that to make that animal profitable it was necessary to have a good nose by which to hunt down perpetually filling in.

He who invests one dollar in business gets ten dollars in return; he who invests ten dollars gets one hundred dollars in return; he who invests one hundred dollars gets one thousand dollars in return; he who invests one thousand dollars gets ten thousand dollars in return; he who invests ten thousand dollars gets one hundred thousand dollars in return; he who invests one hundred thousand dollars gets one million dollars in return; he who invests one million dollars gets ten million dollars in return; he who invests ten million dollars gets one hundred million dollars in return; he who invests one hundred million dollars gets one billion dollars in return; he who invests one billion dollars gets ten billion dollars in return; he who invests ten billion dollars gets one hundred billion dollars in return; he who invests one hundred billion dollars gets one trillion dollars in return; he who invests one trillion dollars gets ten trillion dollars in return; he who invests ten trillion dollars gets one hundred trillion dollars in return; 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The great Democratic victories in New York, Ohio, Maryland and Virginia, the startling results of the election in Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas and Illinois, forebode the election of a Democratic President in 1876.

The secret of the triumph already won has been steadfast adherence to the organization, discharging fidelity to the principles of the Democratic party. The World has been faithful to its trust. When faint hearts talked of a spoiled party, a dead party, a new party, it told them the flag of the history of the Democratic party. That flag, inscribed with the legends of Free Trade and Farmers' Rights, Hard Money, and No Monopoly, the Democrats of Ohio and New York carried to a glorious victory, converting Grant majorities of 37,000 and 51,000.

A new career now opens before the Democracy—more beneficent than its past career, identified though that was with the founding of the republic, its expansion across the continent, its half-century of prosperity and peace.

The open secret of its future, as of its past and present triumphs, is still a steadfast adherence to the organization, an unflinching fidelity to the principles of the Democratic party—principles never so useful as now to be applied throughout our National, State and Municipal life to heal the wounds of democracy, to limit the corrupt and profligate expenditure, to limit the localization of power entrusted to the people's servants, to liberate our industries from the fetters of a barbarous tariff, our trade from the fluctuations of an irredeemable paper currency, and our agriculture from the double plundering of both, as well as to repair the wide-spread financial ruin wrought by the fiscal policy of the Republican party. The duty of The World in this onward march of the Democratic party to victory, is the dissemination of political truth. Our work will be fruitful in proportion as The World is widely read.

We ask Democrats everywhere to aid us in scattering the good seed broadcast over the whole land during the period so important to the coming harvest. Where or how can any Democrat work so efficiently for the diffusion of the principles of his party, and their triumph at the ballot-box in '74 and '76, as by procuring new readers for The World now?

As a vehicle of news, The World will spare no expense, an energy, to maintain its place in the first rank of metropolitan journals. Its fresh, abundant, various and accurate news, comprising the whole circle of current intelligence, will be discussed as masterly trustworthy organs of opinion, with candor, with steady devotion to sound public and private morals, with special knowledge for special themes, and with various and wide-reaching apprehension of the manifold interests of men and women in their homes, their market-places, their workshops and their farms.

THE WEEKLY WORLD is our great edition (Wednesday) for the country. It contains:

1. The latest prices (telegraphed from all the markets of the United States) of live stock, produce, general produce of every kind, and of money, stocks, and freights in New York and Europe.
2. The farmers' page, with all the doings of the Farmers' Club of the American Institute, letters from practical farmers, and scientific discussion on profitable farming.
3. A page for the family circle, of lively and pure reading.
4. One or two attractive novels during the year.
5. All the news in concise summary.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY contains (Tuesday and Friday) all the contents of the Weekly, one or two attractive novels during the year, and all the cream of the Daily World.

THE DAILY WORLD. Price for one copy for one year \$10 (including Sunday edition, \$12), beginning any day; and at the same rates per month for any part of a year.

The Weekly Advance on 1874. (Ready about January 1, 1874.) One copy, post-paid, 25 cents. Five copies, post-paid, \$1.00.

PRICES, POSTAGE PAID, if subscribed for before April 1, 1874.

WHOLELY WORLD.

For one year, each copy separately addressed.

1 copy	.....	\$ 2.00
2 copies	.....	3.00
5 copies, and extra copy to club-agent,	.....	13.00
10 "	.....	20.00
50 "	.....	50.00
100 "	.....	100.00

SEMI-WEEKLY WORLD.

For one year, each copy separately addressed.

1 copy	.....	\$ 3.00
2 copies	.....	4.00
5 copies, and extra copy to club-agent,	.....	13.00
10 copies, and extra copy to club-agent,	.....	20.00

TERMS.—Cash in advance. Send post-office money-order, bank draft, or registered letter. Bills sent by mail will be risk of sender.

Additions to club-lists may be made, any time in the year, at the above club-rates.

Changes in club-lists made only on request of person receiving club postage, stating date of subscription, edition, post-office, and State to which copy has previously been sent.

We have no travelling agents. Specimen copies, posters, etc., sent free, wherever and whenever desired. Address: NEW YORK.

"THE WORLD."

35 Park Row, New York.

NOTICE.

The undersigned hereby give notice that the CAUSEWAY AND SIDE WALLS of St. Anne's Culvert are not finished, and are not safe for the public to travel over. Travelers are warned against crossing it.

SEREC F. SHALCROSS, W. N. WILSON, Commissioners. Middletown, Del., Dec. 4th, 1873-74.

FARM FOR RENT.

THE Farm now occupied by Geo. W. Warren in Appomattox, Va., adjoining W. Warren Bridge, is for rent. Good recommendation will be required. As to ability and means to carry on the farm, apply to EUGENE ROGERS, Dec. 6-21.

FOR RENT, FOR NEXT YEAR.

A Two-Story Brick HOUSE, with a kitchen and a good garden, in the town of Cecil, Md. For terms apply to Mr. Geo. A. Ford, Cecil, or to ALFRED HOWARD, New Castle, Del. Dec. 2, 1873-74.

ELECTION NOTICE.

CITY OF NEW YORK.

The annual election for Nine Directors to serve the ensuing year, will be held in the Banking House on Tuesday, January 13th, 1874, between the hours of 10 and 12 o'clock, a. m. J. R. HALL, Secy. Dec. 6-21.

ELECTION NOTICE.

NEW CASTLE COUNTY, N. Y. BANK OF NEW CASTLE, Dec. 10th, 1873.

The Stockholders of the Bank of New Castle are notified that the annual meeting for the election of Directors for the ensuing year will be held on Wednesday, January 7th, 1874, between the hours of 10 and 12 o'clock, a. m. J. R. HALL, Secy. Dec. 6-21.

NOTICE.

Summons to show cause why I should not be appointed guardian of the person and estate of the said John J. Hall, deceased, to be heard on the 10th day of January, 1874, at 10 o'clock, a. m. J. R. HALL, Secy. Dec. 6-21.

Not having sufficient space to publish the President's message in full, and being too much pressed for time to make a proper synopsis ourselves, we lay before our readers the synopsis of that document as made by the Baltimore Sun, which all know, from the character of the paper whence it is taken, is reliable:

In the very first sentence of the message the President speaks of the past year, "especially the latter part of it," as "an eventful one to the country," and then proceeds to summarize the events that have happened, somewhat oddly including among them, and in the same breath with the Virginia affair, the fact that "political parties have almost ceased to exist, especially in the agricultural regions." The statement is somewhat obscure, and what he intended to refer to is the rise of the Ku-Klux at the South, does not clearly appear. In any case the fact chronicled can hardly be classed among events.

Following the usual order of subjects observed in such documents, the message begins as far from home as possible, with our foreign relations, and with one of the remotest of these—the Emperor of China. Gradually approaching matters of more consequence, the President refers to the payment by Great Britain of the Geneva award, and urges the appointment of a commission to make distribution of the amount among the parties entitled to it. Common honesty would suggest as much, and it is to be hoped that the President's recommendation will be acted upon. There can be no justification for the appropriation or retention of this money by the United States. A very sensible and timely recommendation is made in reference to the subject of expatriation. It is shown how exceedingly defective our present legislation is, and how anomalous the position of this country before the world in this respect. The nation which was the first to resist the slavish doctrine of perpetual allegiance is now among the last to indicate how its own citizens may elect a foreign nationality.

Upon the subject of the Virginian nothing new is communicated in the message. The terms of settlement are stated in the most favorable manner possible to the United States, with a curious omission to mention those provisions and qualifications which the public have been given to understand form part of the settlement and which were evidently inserted as safeguards of Spanish honor and to soothe Spanish pride. The President excuses himself from going into greater detail, upon the ground that the correspondence between the two governments was conducted in cipher and by telegraph, and he awaits the receipt of the actual text by mail.

Passing from matters foreign to domestic, the President recommends further amendments to the constitution authorizing the executive to veto bills in part and to approve in part; prohibiting any legislation by Congress within the last twenty-four hours of its sitting, and restricting that body when convened in extra session to such business as the executive may lay before it. It is questionable whether any of these measures are sufficiently important to require an amendment to the constitution.

In introducing the subject of the national finances, the President alludes to the present difficulty of making both ends meet, and the necessity of greater economy in the matter of government expenditures. One saving recommended by the suspension, for the present, of work upon government buildings not yet commenced, the hope is incidentally expressed that one day we may feel rich enough to build houses at Washington for the cabinet officers and all persons who now receive commutation for quarters or rent at government expense, and that the States may be tempted to do the handsome thing by building similar residences for their Senators.

Later on in the message the city of Washington, its improved streets and avenues, and its board of public works, come in for a "first-rate notice" at the hands of the President. The idea, which has ceased to be a novel one, is presented that the embellishment of the capital should be an object of pride and interest to the whole country, and that the improvements in question should be regarded as "a national investment."

Upon the subject of the finances generally, and the cognate topics of the currency and the "panic," the message will hardly satisfy the expectations of those who have been more or less eagerly awaiting its utterances. There is a want of clearness in the language of the message which is painfully suggestive of want of clearness in the ideas of the writer. First and foremost we have the declaration "that we cannot have permanent prosperity until a specie basis is reached, and that a specie basis cannot be reached and maintained until our exports, exclusive of gold, pay for our imports, interest due abroad, and other specific obligations, or so nearly as to leave an appreciable accumulation of the precious metals in the country from the product of our mines."

Next we are shown how, from increase of population, increase of manufacturing industries, and the habit of the southern negroes to carry their wages in their breeches' pockets instead of depositing them in savings banks, the currency is practically in a state of gradual contraction. It is further regarded as "a patent to the most casual observer that much more currency or money is required during the fall and winter months" than during the rest of the year; and it is more than intimated that with a non-elastic currency panic may thus come to be an annual institution, like the equinox, connected with "moving the crops." To meet this emergency it is suggested that power be given to the Secretary of the Treasury during these periods of annual stringency to issue to national banks a certain amount of their own notes upon a deposit by them of an equal amount of specie.

The authorities of Cuba have addressed a manifesto to the home Government protesting against the surrender of the Virginian vessel to the fleet in the case more fully known.

The English troops have had another fight with the Ashantis, in which the latter were defeated.

Frank L. Taylor, the consulting engineer of the Atlantic National Bank, was summoned on Saturday last by Judge Hendricks to appear in the Atlantic National Bank.

Don Demochow. The court sat at the conclusion of the trial, and the jury returned a verdict of guilty. The defendant was sentenced to the penitentiary for the term of five years. The court then adjourned until the next day.

The meetings are still progressing in the N. E. Church and still retain their usual amount of interest, many are nightly found at the altar and quite a number are being converted. It is one of the "old time" meetings which fills the people with a lively hope.

Our friend Mr. "Abygail" Hyatt has made an improvement on his porch of two neat signs which, when the proprietor's name and business is denoted, driving business will be sure to come. The signs are, "The money panic is so much agitated by the people of our community."

Thursday was Thanksgiving day and the streets were principally closed, service was held in the Drawers' Presbyterian Church, and the sermon was delivered by Rev. James Bryan of the St. Pauls M. E. Church of this place.

It was very happy to say that the long talked of street lamps are being brought nearly to the point of erection as the posts are nearly all dressed and are waiting to be placed in their proper place. "Speed on your good work city fathers."

It would be glad if some of our young friends who suffer with the tooth ache and had cold would take the advice given by the "Old adviser" that is, don't stand at the gates after the air is cool and damp. Young people take advice, and stay in after.

MENTAL APPREHENSION.—T. E. Hurn, Esq., the popular and efficient President of the Ten Commissioners was the fortunate recipient a few days before Thanksgiving day, of a pair of very fine Canvas back Ducks—as he thought—a present from some one, no doubt who perfectly understood and appreciated the value of the gift. Mr. H. services to the town and vicinity. Mr. H. was naturally much gratified at this evident proof of good feeling and lost no time in making known his good luck to his neighbors and displaying his present in a most tempting manner before their longing eyes, and intimating his intention of having a good Thanksgiving day dinner, but alas for the validity of human promises, and the truth of the old adage, "who was verred in such matters pronounced them 'old fishermen'" and such they were, and the "old fisherman" realized the terrible truth that some heartless wretch had perpetrated a cruel "joke" on his unsuspecting confidence. The joke got mad. He tried to bite it, but he was mad, and we don't believe it would have been altogether safe to have attempted to joke him about that time. He thinks this affair was a case of retaliation and that merchant whose advertisement was answered so literally some time ago had a hand in it, at any rate he is "laying" for him.

Minor Topics.

At a regular weekly meeting of the Diamond State Band held last Monday evening, the following persons were unanimously elected members of said band: W. H. Cann, A. N. Pennington, Richard Naudin, L. H. Lane, Edward W. Thomas, H. Vasey, W. W. Wilson, W. Z. Gibson, and Fred C. Pennington.

E. W. Lockwood, Esq., has taken out letters testamentary on the Estate of A. A. Laws, decd., and publishes the customary notice, in another column, to persons to present their claims.

Geo. W. Ortlip, formerly of the Middletown Hotel, now of the Delaware House, Wilmington, has made an assignment of his property to Joshua Menough for the benefit of his creditors.

E. W. Lockwood, Esq., sold at auction on Tuesday last, at the residence of Mr. C. C. Naudin, Bank stock for \$50 and \$500 per share. Purchasers: E. A. Price and Hon. B. T. Biggs.

Read the many new advertisements that appear in our columns this week. You will, doubtless, find something to your advantage.

Some contemptible sneak-thief broke into the carriage house of Mr. Wm. Brady on Thursday night and stole a set of carriage harness.

Proceedings of Court.

From Tuesday of last week until Tuesday of this week the time and attention of the Court has been occupied with the case of the men charged with the attempt to rob the Bank of Delaware. A large number of witnesses were examined, and a great deal of testimony taken which pointed most conclusively to the prisoners as the guilty parties, and on last Tuesday afternoon the jury returned a verdict of guilty. The Court then sentenced the prisoners to a term of years, and the Court gave them four days to file their reasons.

We regret that our space will not allow us to publish the evidence in full, but our paper is not more than half full of the case, and the Court's account of the trial and conviction of the prisoners will be found in our letter from New Castle. On Wednesday the Court returned to Civil business and a large number of cases were disposed of without trial.

Alf. Burnett, The Humorist.

Those of our citizens who attend the entertainments given by this well-known humorist need no pressing invitation to go and hear him next Monday evening. Those who have heard him say he keeps his audience in the roar of laughter during the whole performance. We often hesitate about speaking of the "shows" that are to be given in the Hall, but from what many persons doubt, as to the doubt that the entertainments of Burnett are really good things. A good hearty laugh does nobody any harm and an evening spent in pleasurable enjoyment occasionally is good for the spirits as well as digestion. The holidays are coming on, and the Court is at time for pleasure. If you want some fun go to hear Burnett next Monday evening. The admission is only 35 cents.

The Culvert Finished.

Work on the new culvert, to replace the one washed out last August, over St. Anne's run, is about finished. As the work drew near completion much rivalry sprang up among some of the "gents" who live down that road as to who should be the first to cross the new bridge.

The victorious palm was carried off by Col. C. A. to his Excellency Geo. Pender, who, determined not to be out-done, drove over the bridge last Saturday evening. The experiment was a little risky, as the work was far from being done, but when the Col. oversteered, and what was the breaking of a guide pole to a carriage compared to the glory of being the first to cross the bridge?

The Weather.

The early part of this week was intensely disagreeable. On Monday it was blustery and cold, closing in the evening with snow and rain. On Tuesday morning the pavements were covered with snow and sleet and the weather was very cold, but when the Col. oversteered, and what was the breaking of a guide pole to a carriage compared to the glory of being the first to cross the bridge?

Changes at the Depot.

The F. W. & D. R. Co. on Monday last added to the passenger train, the new Pullman telegraph operator at our depot, whose ticket agent is J. W. Jolly, discharged. Several friends were advanced to the position of general freight agent for this place.

Large Ice Storage.

Messrs. E. R. Cockman and B. R. Rice are erecting a large ice house on the banks of Drummond Lake near St. Anne's. The house will be 35 ft. long by 25 ft. wide and 15 ft. high, and will hold 100,000 lbs. of ice. It is to be built on a level ground, and not in a low place.

Conventions.

Our friends made a little mistake last week (and the dinner's expense was the same mistake) about the meeting of Mr. Burnside's property. It was not to be held at the old place, but at the new one.

Arrangement of Ours Journeys.—Prof. Grant, on Monday, tendered the appointment of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States to Atty. Gen. Williams. Mr. Williams did not decline the honor.

Geo. H. Williams was born in Columbia county, New York, in 1823; studied law and "went west"; was a judge in Iowa from 1847 to 1852; was appointed Chief Justice for the Territory of Oregon by President Pierce in 1853; held the office four years; was elected U. S. Senator in 1864 by the Republicans; was appointed one of the Commissioners to settle the Alabama Claims with England; was appointed Attorney General and now Chief Justice of the United States.

Judge Williams was never accounted a brilliant lawyer or learned jurist, but he is a personal friend of the President, and that covers a multitude of defects.

The appointment of incapable men, because of personal favoritism, to responsible political stations is bad enough, but to put such men in high judicial offices is intolerable, and sufficient to disgust us with a Republican form of government.

It is to the credit of the Senate that it has so far refused to confirm this outrageous nomination, and if it will adhere to this determination and positively decline to sanction all such unworthy appointments, it will merit the gratitude of the nation.

HARRINGTON VS. DUNE.—Marshall Dunn published, last Tuesday, what he was pleased to call a reply to Mr. Harrington's last letter. In our opinion, Mr. Dunn's answer is very lame. He makes no effort whatever to disprove Mr. Harrington's charges, but in imitation of the Congressional Credit Mobilier hypocrites, he pretends to fall back upon his unsullied(?) character and his well-known reputation for honesty.—Heaven save the mark.—The charge of sending roughs to steal the Blackbird ballot-boxes he conveniently passes over in silence, and insolently presumes to set up his word against the affidavits produced by Mr. H. about the repeaters, making a simple denial of the charge. He says nothing about the charge of stuffing the ballot-boxes in Wilmington, and completely backs down from his high vaunted threats to "not allow Mr. Harrington to escape his legal responsibility" for bringing a charge against one of Grant's elect. He places himself upon his popularity at Washington, and intimates to Mr. H. that his conduct in this matter is calculated to lower him in the estimation of the powers that be. This we can readily believe, for exposure of official corruption is very distasteful to the moral reformers who have just re-chosen to places of responsibility and power Blaine, Dawes and other Credit Mobilier notoriety.

A NEW EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—In accordance with the call issued by Bishop Cummins, a small number of clergymen and laymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church met in Association Hall, New York, last Tuesday and proceeded to form themselves into a new religious body to be known as "The Reformed Episcopal Church of the United States." Bishop Cummins was chosen Presiding Bishop and Rev. Dr. Cheney, of Chicago, was elected Missionary Bishop for the west. A declaration of principles was adopted, based upon the prayer book recommended by the General Convention of the P. E. Church in 1785. A number of the practices and doctrines of the Episcopal Church were condemned and denounced, especially the "The Church" and "Apostolic Succession" claims. The general meeting of the new church is to be denominated the "General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church," and is to meet in May every year.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE.—The December number of this excellent monthly opens with an illustrated article on "The Water Ways of New York," giving an account of the transaction and life on the Erie canal. Following this is a profusely illustrated article "Around Lake Lemna," descriptive of scenes around that ancient Swiss lake, and calling to memory many interesting reminiscences of the past. A second installment of "Northern California," by Chas. Nordhoff, follows, also beautifully illustrated, and being descriptive of the big trees and mountainous districts of the Golden State is very interesting. The serial story "Living Link" by the Author of the "American Baron," is continued. Another of those intensely interesting "Sauterlings on the South Coast of England," graces this number.

The magazine is in fact filled with excellent matter and is a prize worth having, but to our mind the beautifully illustrated poem "The Golden Wedding" is one of the finest things in the book.

Now is the time to renew or begin subscriptions to the magazine. Every body ought to have a good periodical to read during the long winter evenings. There are many published, of which there are none better or more comparable to the public than Harper's. No description of it is needed for every body knows it. The subscription price is \$5.00 or sent by the Druggist it can be had at a much lower rate.

STAMMER AT SEA, AND FEARFUL LOSS OF LIFE.—Another of those terrible calamities at sea, in which this year has been so prolific, has happened. On the night of the 11th of November the French steamer, *Le Havre*, on route from New York to Havre, was run into by the British ship *Loch Earn*, and almost immediately sunk, taking on nearly in two. The steamer had on board, at the time of the collision, 100 cabin passengers and 183 officers and crew. The captain and crew of the *Loch Earn* did all in their power to rescue the passengers of the unfortunate steamer, but despite utmost exertions only eighty-seven were saved. Included in these were the captain, who was the last to leave the wreck, five officers, fifty-two seamen and twenty-six passengers, of whom three were ladies. The survivors were afterward transferred to the ship *Trimountain*, from New York to Cardiff, where they arrived last Monday and reported the disaster. The *Loch Earn* was very much injured, having her bow-sprit carried away and a large hole stove in her bow, and as she is much overdue at her destination, fears are entertained that she has followed the fate of the steamer and been lost, with all her crew.

The *Tille du Havre* was the largest passenger steamer, except the *Great Eastern*, that ever came to America, her dimensions being 430 feet long by 48 feet wide. Her carrying capacity was 35,000 tons, weight and measure.—Among her passengers, on her last trip, were many prominent men of New York and other States, and also several members of the Evangelical Alliance who were returning to their homes.

THE SPANISH DIFFICULTY.—The difficulty is said to be in a fair way for amicable adjustment, and the war clouds are dissipating. The Spanish Government has agreed to accede to the demands of the United States, which are as follows:

- I. The immediate delivery to the United States of the ship *Virginia* and all the surviving passengers and crew.
- II. A salute to our flag on the 25th of December next, unless in the meantime Spain shall satisfy the United States that the American flag was not hoisted on that vessel, and further, that she had no right to the American flag or American papers. In this event the salute is to be spontaneously withdrawn, and Spain is to formally disclaim any intentional indignity to the flag by the acts committed by Spain against the *Virginia*.
- III. If it shall thus be shown that the *Virginia* had no right to carry the American flag and papers, the United States will institute proceedings against the vessel and the surviving parties who have violated the laws of the United States; and Spain guarantees to institute proceedings against any of her authorities who may have violated either law or treaty stipulation.
- IV. The subject of indemnities for damages in the case considered hereafter, and if the Governments of Spain and the United States cannot agree, this matter will be left to arbitration.

To these demands the Spanish-Cuban authorities raise the most bitter opposition, especially that for the surrender of the *Virginia*, and it is feared that they will not obey the instructions of the Castellar Government.

Should Spain be unable to enforce obedience in Cuba to her stipulations with the United States, what then? Will the administration take the matter into its own hands, and compel obedience?

In view of the fact that the Administration has long been wanting an opportunity for the acquisition of Cuba as well as St. Domingo we have but little confidence in its sincerity in seeking a peaceful settlement of the Spanish difficulty.

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This image shows a vertical strip of a document page. A prominent, dark, irregular vertical line runs down the center, likely representing a binding or a tear in the paper. The page is heavily damaged and stained, with a dark, textured background. There are several horizontal and diagonal marks, possibly from a pen or pencil, scattered across the surface. The overall appearance is that of an old, worn, and possibly water-damaged piece of paper.